



Council on Developmental Services



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

APPROVED Minutes of July 12, 2012

Location: Camp Quinebaug, 54 Tacos Drive, Killingly, CT

In Attendance: James Heffernan, Chairman; Jennifer Carroll; Jack Frost; Jamie Lazaroff; Dr. John Pelegano, Secretary; Patti Silva

Absent: Patrick Vingo, Vice Chairman; David Hadden, Sheila Mulvey; Lou Richards; Thomas Kalal; Dr. Terrence Macy, Ex-Officio

Staff: Christine Cooney, Director, Legislative and Executive Affairs; Joseph Drexler, Deputy Commissioner; Maureen Prewitt, Executive Secretary

A tour of the Camp was provided by Elisa Marcoux, Camp Director, Sherin Gilkenson, Assistant Camp Director, and Kevin, grounds keeper provided a tour of the camp facilities.

Chairman James Heffernan opened the meeting at 2:00 P.M.

Mr. Heffernan expressed his gratitude for the camp tour. The camp is a delightful, fun-filled summer experience for school age children. It is nice to see the cooperation between DDS staff, schools and volunteers.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Approval of May Minutes

Minutes for the May meeting were reviewed. Two minor changes were required.

Dr. Pelegano made a motion to accept the minutes and Patti Silva seconded the motion. The Council voted unanimously to accept the May minutes once the minor changes have been made.

Legislative Update

Christine Cooney distributed two updates of new studies that the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee is undertaking. The update on Connecticut's Efforts at Maximizing Federal Revenues is focused on the federal revenues that state and local governmental entities have the most control over, primarily grants. The second update, Medicaid Improper Payments is focused on describing and evaluating the processes the state uses to prevent, detect and recover any improper payments in the Medicaid program due to fraud, abuse and errors. If legislation is needed areas as a result of either of these two studies it will be proposed in the upcoming Legislative Session.

Any suggestions for the 2013 Legislative Session should be emailed to Ms. Cooney or Rod O'Connor.

Council members discussed DDS's current use of grants. Christine explained that federal grants often have many stipulations. DDS currently is working with Dept. of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Dept. of Social Services and the Dept. of Economic and Community Development on a housing grant for people with disabilities. People with Autism

would be able to access this grant if we get it. DDS's Communications Division is also applying for a state grant for a DDS video studio from the Public Utility Regulatory Authority.

Jack Frost asked if there was a database to find available grants and the feasibility of a grant to help DDS fund residential structures. Christine indicated that the federal government puts out lists of grants; however, they are very difficult to maneuver through.

Patti Silva expressed the need for legislation to require coverage for the cost of hearing aids for individuals over the age of 12 as insurance stops paying for hearing aides after that age. There are some civic organizations that may be able to assist with funding as well and family grant money can be used for this purpose, however, these options may not be available to everyone. Ms. Cooney will check to see if Title XIX pays for the cost of hearing aids.

Commissioner's Update

Commissioner Macy was unable to attend today's meeting. Deputy Commissioner Joseph Drexler gave the Commissioner's report in his absence.

With regards to this week's video of an incident at a private community living arrangement showing the alleged abuse of an individual, Deputy Commissioner Drexler distributed an overview of DDS's Abuse and Neglect System. The overview included data on the reporting of allegations during 2011. Some items are not by definition necessarily abuse or neglect, however, the department follows up on incidents to see if something happened that could be considered abuse or neglect (i.e. injuries of unknown origin).

Deputy Commissioner Drexler said that as long as bad things happen, the department has work to do. As soon as the incident became known, the provider, DDS and the East Hartford Police Department took immediate action. The agency has been placed on Enhanced Monitoring, which is not always the case for an abuse/neglect allegation, but the department felt it was necessary based on this agency's situation. DDS nurses went to the home to determine if there were other signs of abuse or neglect, to address any concerns or issues the residents may have, and to physically check the residents. Multiple daily unannounced visits are also occurring. New admissions to this agency have been suspended. The department has been in frequent contact with the agency's assistant director as the director was out of state. Sgt. Shane Hassett, Director of Investigations has been in close contact with the East Hartford Police Department's investigator and deputy chief. After the investigation is completed, if abuse is substantiated, a hearing will be held to determine if the individual will be placed on the DDS Abuse and Neglect Registry. If placed on the Registry an individual is prohibited from ever working with individuals supported by DDS.

Deputy Commissioner Drexler discussed the next steps the department will take which will include determining where there were system issues, i.e. screening, training and supervision of staff. DDS needs to continue to create a work culture where individuals are respected and staff do the right thing.

Deputy Commissioner Drexler mentioned that 16,000 people in the state are providing services to individuals with intellectual disability. The majority of staff are dedicated and caring as seen during the tour of Camp Quinebaug today and approach their job with professionalism and concern.

The Deputy Commissioner expressed both his and the Commissioner's thanks to Jen Carroll for her recent participation in the stakeholder's group interviewing candidates for the Family Support Strategies and Advocacy Director. Ms. Carroll also was a panelist for a recent retreat for managers that looked at how the department's Mission and Vision would look to parents and ways to make the Mission and Vision succeed.

The Deputy Commissioner announced that two director positions have recently been filled.

- Ms. Robin Wood has been hired as the department's Director of Family Support Strategies and Advocacy. In this role she will guide the department in changes to become more family focused and will work to build connections with various community groups. Robin will continue her work with the department's Employment First Initiative.
- Ms. Siobhan Morgan has been hired as the department's Director of Waiver Services. She will be responsible for reporting to the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), management of current waivers and development and implementation of new waivers.

Interviews for the Director of Autism Services have been completed and the Commissioner will be announcing his appointment soon.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 P.M. on a motion made by Patti Silva and seconded by Dr. Pelegano.